



United States
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Natural
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Conservation
Service

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2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus EQIP Does the Job!

The latest in technology, combined with three generations of concern for preservation of the land, summarize Steve Williams' approaches to conservation. Steve Williams has been farming for 25 years. He farms 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans near Brocton, IL. Much of Steve's farming operation lies within the watershed that contains the lake which supplies drinking water for the community. Even though Steve does not use the lake for his water supply on the farm, he wants to assist in the reduction of sediments that find their way into it.

As co-chair of the lake's watershed workgroup, he has served as an advocate for conservation tillage, filter strips, and other conservation practices that keep the soil on their fields and reduce the amount of sediments that reach the lake.

Using NRCS' EQIP program and other voluntary incentive-based programs, Steve has installed 15 acres of field borders, 120 acres of filter strips and 5 acres of grassed waterways on his farm. He also farms using zero tillage on 80% of his land. On the remaining 20%, he farms with conservation tillage.

Williams has found EQIP to be a useful program; a catalyst for implementing conservation practices needed to address local natural resource issues in his community. He encourages farmers across Illinois and the Midwest to explore conservation options through EQIP. "I've been involved with EQIP and have used the program to address a number of natural resource issues – from controlling erosion to keeping the water in my ditches clean. I feel that all the conservation practices I've installed through EQIP have definitely provided secondary benefits for the many species of wildlife that call our land home," says Steve Williams.

Illinois Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continues to be a popular program in Illinois. Illinois has emphasized spending EQIP money through priority areas, resulting in 90 percent of EQIP allocations being spent addressing issues that fall under targeted concerns. Statewide resource concern for FY 2001 addressed livestock management issues. Currently, Illinois is funding 24 priority areas with many more interested in funding.

Accomplishments

Illinois received approximately \$3.3 million in EQIP funds in FY2001. About 90% of these funds were targeted to 24 priority areas. Within these areas, a total of 439 contracts were approved for funding by NRCS and conservation districts.

Conservation plans are written to address natural resource concerns identified by locally led groups within each priority area. Through EQIP, NRCS has assisted thousands of clients, helping them install plans and make them a reality. During FY 2001, NRCS conservation technical assistance and EQIP funds have worked to protect and improve more than 61,000 acres of land in Illinois. To date, more than 379,000 acres have been protected with EQIP through 2,834 contracts with Illinois private landowners. Illinois' new EQIP priority areas await approval status for EQIP funding. Additional federal EQIP funds are needed in order to assist all landowners requesting EQIP program assistance.

Outlook

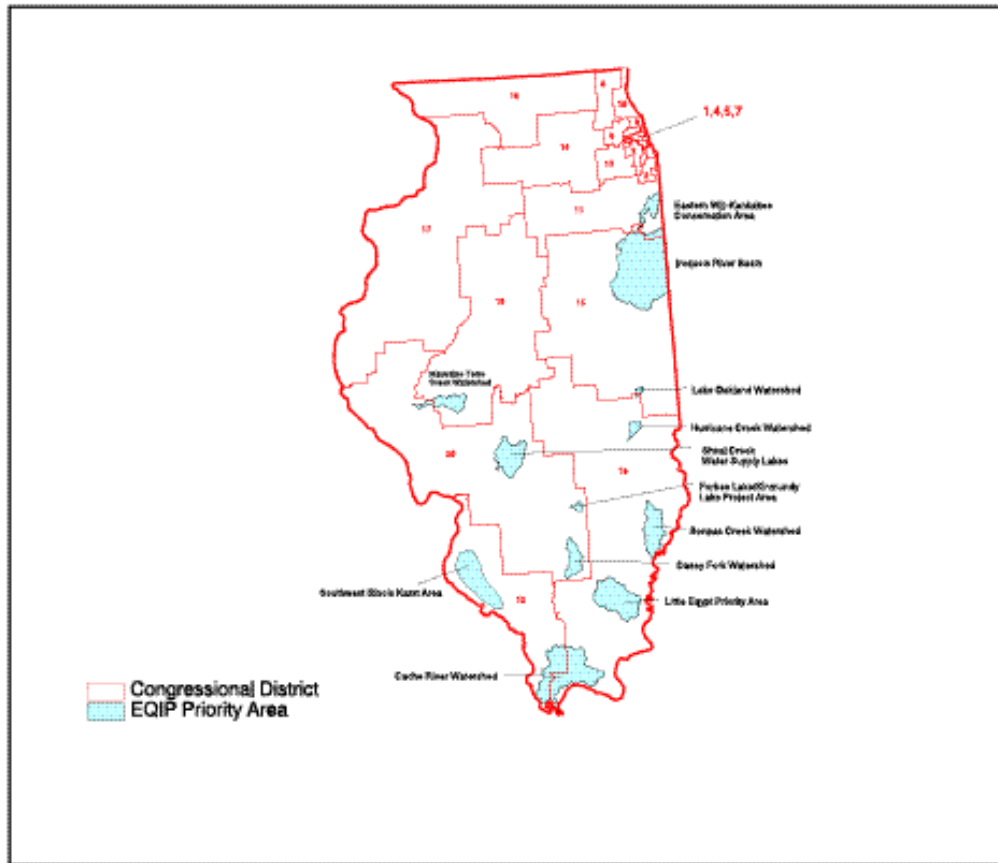
Many additional locally led groups and communities are interested in using EQIP money and NRCS conservation technical assistance in order to address their significant resource concerns. An increase in funding would allow Illinois to assist these local work groups and to put needed conservation solutions on the ground.

State Contact

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Illinois EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Illinois EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$289,500	29	\$2,833,500	699
District 11	\$ 72,500	9	\$ 72,500	9
District 12	\$395,500	34	\$3,282,500	397
District 15	\$561,000	79	\$2,803,000	350
District 16	\$ 12,000	2	\$ 12,000	2
District 17	\$266,000	22	\$ 305,000	38
District 18	\$190,500	13	\$1,578,500	342
District 19	\$593,000	101	\$3,309,000	636
District 20	\$924,000	145	\$2,612,000	384
State Totals	\$3,304,000	440	\$16,808,000	2857

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Illinois' Statewide Natural Resource concern is Livestock Waste Management.

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